



**St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
Morning Prayer (BCP, 75)  
Proper 27, Year A  
November 8, 2020**

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,  
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer." *Psalms 19:14*

**CONFESSION**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

**The Invitatory and Psalter**

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. ALLELUIA!!**

The mercy of the Lord is everlasting: **Come let us adore him.**

My faith looks up to thee,  
thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine!  
Now hear me while I pray,  
take all my guilt away;  
O let me from this day  
be wholly thine.

May thy rich grace impart  
strength to my fainting heart,  
my zeal inspire;  
as thou hast died for me,  
O may my love to thee  
pure, warm, and changeless be,  
a living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread,  
and griefs around me spread,  
be thou my guide;  
bid darkness turn to day;  
wipe sorrow's tears away,  
nor let me ever stray  
from thee aside.

**Jubilate (BCP, 82)***Psalm 100*

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \***  
    **serve the Lord with gladness**  
    **and come before his presence with a song.**  
**Know this: The Lord himself is God; \***  
    **he himself has made us, and we are his;**  
    **we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**  
**Enter his gates with thanksgiving;**  
**go into his courts with praise; \***  
    **give thanks to him and call upon his Name.**  
**For the Lord is good;**  
**his mercy is everlasting; \***  
    **and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

**Psalm 78:1-7 (BCP, 694)**

***Attendite, popule***

- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people; \*  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.**
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; \*  
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.**
- 3 That which we have heard and known,  
and what our forefathers have told us, \*  
we will not hide from their children.**
- 4 We will recount to generations to come  
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, \*  
and the wonderful works he has done.**
- 5 He gave his decrees to Jacob  
and established a law for Israel, \*  
which he commanded them to teach their children;**
- 6 That the generations to come might know,  
and the children yet unborn; \*  
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;**
- 7 So that they might put their trust in God, \*  
and not forget the deeds of God,  
but keep his commandments;**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**A Reading from Joshua (24:1-3a, 14-25)**

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the

River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the LORD!” Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.” The people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Reader        The Word of the Lord.  
People        **Thanks be to God.**

### **Canticle 16: The Song of Zechariah (BCP, 92)**

*Benedictus Dominus Deus*

Luke 1:68-79

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
    he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
    born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
    from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
    and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
    to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear, \*  
    holy and righteous in his sight**

all the days of our life.  
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
by the forgiveness of their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the  
shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### **A Reading from 1 Thessalonians (4:13-18)**

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Reader        The Word of the Lord.  
People        **Thanks be to God.**

### **Canticle 18: A Song to the Lamb (BCP, 93)**

*Dignus es*

*Revelation 4:11; 5:9-10, 13*

**Splendor and honor and kingly power \***  
**are yours by right, O Lord our God,**  
**For you created everything that is, \***  
**and by your will they were created and have their being;**  
**And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, \***  
**for with your blood you have redeemed for God,**

**From every family, language, people, and nation, \*  
a kingdom of priests to serve our God.**

**And so, to him who sits upon the throne, \*  
and to Christ the Lamb,  
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, \*  
for ever and for evermore.**

### **A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew (25:1-13)**

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Reader        The Word of the Lord.  
People        **Thanks be to God.**

### **REFLECTION**

**The Rev. Molly James**

### **HYMN**

***Let all mortal flesh keep silence v.1 & 4***

**(H82 324)**

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
our full homage to demand.

At his feet the six-winged seraph;  
cherubim with sleepless eye

veil their faces to the Presence,  
as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
'Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!'

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED (BCP, 96)**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

Officiant    The Lord be with you.

People       **And also with you.**

Officiant    Let us pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy Name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**SUFFRAGES A (BCP, 97)**

- V. Show us your mercy, O Lord.  
**R. And grant us your salvation.**  
V. Clothe your ministers in righteousness.  
**R. Let your people sing with joy.**  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
**R. For only in you can we live in safety.**  
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
**R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**  
V. Let your way be known upon the earth.  
**R. Your saving health among all nations.**  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
**R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
**R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

**The Collect of the Day**

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**A Prayer for Peace Among Nations**

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**A Prayer for Social Justice**

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Intercessions and thanksgivings are welcome, at this time.*



## A Prayer of St. Chrysostom (BCP, 102)

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time  
with one accord  
to make our common supplication to you;  
and you have promised through your well-beloved Son  
that when two or three are gathered together in his Name  
you will be in the midst of them:  
Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions  
as may be best for us;  
granting in this world knowledge of your truth,  
and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Let us bless the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## BLESSING

### CLOSING HYMN      *Guide me, O thou great Jehovah v. 1 & 3*      (H82 690)

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand;  
bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side;  
songs of praises,  
I will ever give to thee.

